

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05053 180509Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 HA-05 OMB-01 SSM-03 ACDA-12 CCO-00  
/105 W

-----037407 181954Z /73

R 171755Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1399  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5053

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR LE IS  
SUBJECT/ ITALIAN VIEWS ON FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US MARCH 16 THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR AND LEBANESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WRE CALLED IN SEPARATELY TO MFA MARCH 15 TO HEAR ITALIAN VIEWS ON FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. MFA (DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS BOTTAI) TOLD LEBANESE THAT GOI DEPLORED FIGHTING IN AREA AND WAS ISSUING STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. LEBANESE CHARGE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ITALIAN VIEW AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT EFFECT OF MOVEMENTS BY REFUGEES ON DELICATE POLITICAL, ETHNIC, AND RELIGIOUS BALANCES IN COUNTRY.

2. BOTTAI TOLD ISRAELI AMBASSADOR THAT GOI SYMPATHIZED WITH ISRAEL'S FEELINGS ABOUT PALESTIAN RAID OF PREVIOUS WEEKEND AND POINTED TO GOI CONDEMNATION OF RAID AND TO LETTER OF SYMPATHY SENT BY PRESIDENT LEONE TO ISRAELI PRESIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, ITALY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT OF MILI-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 05053 180509Z

TARY ACTION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BOTH ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN LEBANON AND ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. ITALIANS TOLD ISRAELI THAT THERE ARE THREE GROUPS IN ARAB COUNTRIES: THOSE WHO ARE ISRAEL'S IRRECONCILABLE ENEMIES, THOSE WHO ARE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO ISRAEL, AND THOSE WHO ARE ISRAEL'S "POTENTIAL FRIENDS". ISRAELI ACTIONS IN PREVIOUS 24 HOURS MADE POSITION OF LAST GROUP

DIFFICULT.

3. MFA OFFICIAL STRESSED TO EMBOFF THAT ITALIANS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT INTERNAL EQUILIBRIUM IN LEBANON AS RESULT OF ISRAELI ACTIONS AND WONDERED WHAT U.S. VIEWS ON SITUATION MIGHT BE, IN PARTICULAR WHAT THOUGHTS WE MIGHT HAVE ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN POSITION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANYTHING WE CAN PASS ON TO MFA ABOUT OUR VIEWS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON.GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, REPRISALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ROME05053  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780121-0090  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtznz.tel  
**Line Count:** 73  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d68617c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3289903  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** / ITALIAN VIEWS ON FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PBOR, MOPS, LE, IS, IT  
**To:** STATE BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d68617c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014